

Leaders will discuss the critical importance of childhood vaccinations to protect children from vaccine-preventable disease during Minnesota Vaccination Awareness Week

WHAT: With a goal of generating a statewide call to action among parents, providers and communities, a panel of experts representing Minnesota families, as well as national, state, non-profit and private health organizations will lead a discussion on the importance of childhood vaccinations and the need to dispel myths and misperceptions.

In light of the recent confirmation of multiple cases of measles in Minnesota, the panelists will discuss how and why vaccines can prevent the spread of devastating, yet preventable diseases, and how science, health care practices and economics support vaccinating children.

Join in on the conversation on Twitter during the forum by using #MNVaxChat.

WHO: Speakers and panelists include:

- The Honorable Betty McCollum, U.S. congresswoman (MN-04)
- Martin G. Myers, MD, emeritus professor, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston; director, National Network for Immunization Information
- Edward Ehlinger, MD, MSPH, commissioner, Minnesota Department of Health
- Robert Jacobson, MD, pediatrician, Mayo Clinic; chair of AAP Immunization Task Force, Minnesota Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics

- Patsy Stinchfield, RN, MS, CPNP, Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota's director of pediatric infectious disease & immunology infection control
- Brendalee Flint & Hodan Hassan, Minnesota mothers and vaccination advocates

WHEN: Wednesday, April 27, 2011

Minnesota Vaccination Awareness Forum: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

- Registration and networking starts at 8:30 a.m.
- Media availability with panelists: 8:30-8:45 a.m.; 10:30 – 11 a.m.
- Media availability with Congresswoman McCollum: 10:30 a.m.

Gov. Mark Dayton has proclaimed the week of April 24 Vaccination Awareness Week

WHERE: Children's Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota- St. Paul campus
Garden View Building, Room 4057
347 Smith Ave. N., St. Paul, MN 55102
Park in the adjacent Red Ramp

REGISTRATION/CONTACTS: Media representatives and all guests must pre-register with:
Brian Lucas, Children's Hospitals and Clinics PR manager (612) 813-6615 /
brian.lucas@childrensmn.org.